

Derek Olson is viewed by his peers as an innovator in his field, pushing the standards of learning for his students in ways that show he genuinely cares about each and every one of them. He is said to "really bring learning to life for kids," and "likes to teach by example and experience," rather than solely relying on a textbook.

Upon hearing the news of his nomination, Derek was hesitant to apply for not wanting to overshadow the great work of his colleagues. Derek went forward with the nomination in hopes that his recognition could bring to light the talent, commitment, and sacrifice of his fellow teachers in the district.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to stand today and honor Derek Olson's selfless service and dedication to teaching America's youth, our most valued treasure. I stand today and join his family, friends, and colleagues in wishing him a long career of success and look forward to seeing all that he does with his God-given talents.

**HONORING THE SERVICE AND THE  
MEMORY OF REVOLUTIONARY  
WAR SOLDIER PRIVATE MARTIN  
MANEY**

**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 2008*

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and the memory of Revolutionary War Soldier Private Martin Maney of Buncombe County, North Carolina.

Each year on Memorial Day, our Nation honors the service and sacrifice of all veterans. On Saturday, May 17, 2008, in the Western North Carolina town of Barnardville, the memory of Private Martin Maney, a Revolutionary War Soldier, was honored by the dedication of an official Veterans Administration headstone. The unveiling ceremony was conducted by the Edward Buncombe Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Blue Ridge Chapter of the North Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Button Gwinnett Chapter of the Georgia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Private Martin Maney was a true American patriot and a proud North Carolinian. He served under Captain James Knox in the Eighth Virginia Regiment of Foot. He fought in the Battles of White Plains, New York, Germantown, Pennsylvania, and Monmouth, New Jersey prior to being discharged at Valley Forge. Following his discharge, he enlisted with the North Carolina Militia where he provided personal security for North Carolina Generals who were receiving death threats from the Tories. Following his service, Private Martin Maney received the 294th Land Grant in North Carolina. He used that land to create a farm, where today the Maney cemetery exists and Private Maney has been laid to rest.

It is with great respect that I commend and remember this brave soldier who joined hands with countless other patriots to achieve American independence. I hope that today's generation of young men and women will follow the shining example of patriotism and dedication to freedom modeled by Private Martin Maney and other Revolutionary War heroes.

**HONORING THE MEMORY OF SEC-  
OND LIEUTENANT PETER H.  
BURKS**

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 2008*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am honored to stand today to celebrate the life of a young man who made the ultimate sacrifice, giving his life in defense of our Nation.

Second Lieutenant Peter H. Burks, 26, of Dallas, Texas, died November 14 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 4th Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, Vilseck, Germany.

Pete answered the call of service to his country in April of 2006 when he proudly enlisted in the United States Army. In October of that same year he was commissioned as an officer. Pete was no ordinary leader. He used his warm personality and keen sense of humor to inspire others. He received numerous awards, ribbons and medals, including the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Combat Action Badge.

Pete's parents have shared with my office correspondence which speaks volumes about the character of this fallen soldier. Last year he wrote to his mother, "Dad taught me how to reason, think logically and gave me a thirst for knowledge. You (Mom) gave me a fiery passion, a competitive streak, and most importantly, you taught me the importance of knowing the Lord."

An excerpt from Pete's emails to his fiancée, Melissa Haddad, includes the following: "I know that regardless of the circumstances, God is putting me EXACTLY where he wants me for the time being. I know that that is hard to swallow, but it is the truth . . . I will do my best and work to glorify God in all that I do. So long as I do that, I have accomplished the real mission that has been set out for me."

Pete answered the call to duty, accomplished his missions to the best of his ability, and has now been called home to the Lord. He leaves behind his fiancée, Melissa Haddad; his mother Jackie Merck; father Alan and stepmother Laura Burks; sisters Ali, Sarah and Georgia Burks; brother Zac Burks; grandmother Irene Merck; grandfather Haskell Burks; other family members and a multitude of friends both within and outside the service.

Madam Speaker, Second Lieutenant Peter Burks was a true American hero. As we honor all of America's fallen soldiers on this coming Memorial Day, let us pay tribute to this fine soldier and offer our deepest condolences to his family and friends. May God bless all those who serve in our Armed Forces and who defend our Nation around the globe, and may the memory of Peter Burks live forever in the hearts of all those who knew him and loved him.

**IN HONOR OF AMIT ZUTSHI**

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 2008*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Amit Zutshi, who passed

away on March 19, 2008 at the age of thirty. This young man enriched the many lives he touched.

Mr. Zutshi thrived as a student at the Mission San Jose High School in Fremont, California. After receiving degrees in Information Technology and Business, he earned an MBA from University of Phoenix.

Mr. Zutshi worked for Microsoft and later worked with an e Commerce company in Santa Clara, California. He embodied the best of his generation. He felt it essential to help others. To honor Mr. Zutshi's legacy, his family is starting the Amit Zutshi Foundation to provide opportunities for disadvantaged children.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the life of Amit Zutshi.

**OPERATION EDUCATION**

**HON. BILL SALI**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 2008*

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, over 1,668,000 soldiers have been deployed in the service of our Nation in Afghanistan and Iraq since September 11. These veterans sacrificed every day for the well-being of our Nation. Whether they have seen active combat or not, all veterans share a common readiness to commit their all to the defense of the land they love. Their willingness to freely sacrifice their lives epitomizes what makes our country great. As a nation, we will always owe them a great debt.

Several months ago I attended a funeral at Arlington Cemetery. That day a 19-year-old soldier from Pennsylvania was laid to rest. He was in a Bradley fighting vehicle in Iraq when an insurgent threw a grenade down the turret.

It was reported that this soldier had time to get out of the vehicle before the grenade went off, and that is what he had been trained to do. Instead, he wrapped his body around the grenade as it went off, saving the lives of three other crew members.

In the Book of John 15:13 Jesus taught, "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." The young man laid to rest at Arlington that day lived an example of the love of Christ. He and countless other who had lived stories of bravery and heroism deserve our highest honor and praise. But so do all of our veterans.

That is why I was happy to recently see some developments back in my home State of Idaho that will greatly benefit the wounded warriors in my district. Through the hard work of many, including Karen White, the University of Idaho, located in Moscow, Idaho, recently launched a program known as Operation Education. The purpose of this program is to help veterans "severely and permanently wounded" as a result of their service to our Nation since September 11. Through the Operation Education Scholarship, the University of Idaho is able to offer financial support in areas from tuition and books to transportation and child care. They also offer internships and assist in job placement.

Education is one of the greatest commodities we can offer our Nation's veterans. The skills they have learned in the Armed Forces